Market Borrowings for Power Sector Reforms in Andhra Pradesh

2255. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought permission for market borrowings to carry on the power sector reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh had approached Government of India to provide a Special Assistance of Rs. 1000 crores either as grant/loan or for permitting the State Government for an additional Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) based market borrowing for helping the State Government to meet its commitment for the ongoing power sector reforms in the State.

The request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is under consideration with the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance since any additional allocation of market borrowing can only be as part of a fiscal reform package.

Rift over Equipment Contracts

2256. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item under caption ""Rift between Government, NTPC over equip- ment contracts widens" in the Hindustan Times dated 21st February, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. But, there is no rift between the Central Government and National Thermal Power Corporation over equipment contracts pertaining to Main Plant Packages for Stage-II Kawas, Jhanor-Gandhar, Anta and Auraiya Combined Cycle Power Projects.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.